

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 00696 292328Z

12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 /041 W

----- 086588

R 292304Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4228

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0696

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EC PINS PINT

SUBJECT: MANTA, ECUADOR'S SECOND PORT, PARALYZED

1. ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM THE MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT AND POLICE JANUARY 28, A TOTALLY EFFECTIVE GENERAL STRIKE CLOSED DOWN THE CITY OF MANTA BEGINNING THE MORNING OF THAT DAY. BANKS ARE CLOSED AND BUSINESSES HAVE SHUTDOWN IN RESPONSE TO AN APPEAL BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; TRAFFIC TO THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL, PORTOVIEJO, HAS BEEN REPORTED SERIOUSLY AFFECTED.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS JANUARY 29, UPROAR WAS CAUSED BY ALLEGED NEGLECT BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE PORT. IN A PROTEST DIRECTED TO THE PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHED IN EL TIEMPO JANUARY 29 A GREAT NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS ARE CITED INCLUDING THE SEA OF MUD AND WASTE WHICH CHARACTERIZES THE CITY IN THE RAINY SEASON BECAUSE OF LACK OF PAVED STREETS AND THE ABSENCE OF ADQUATE SEWERAGE.

3. GOVERNOR OF PROVINCE, WHO ADDRESSED CITIZENS JANUARY 28 WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN HIS ATTEMPTS TO APPEASE THEM. LEADER OF PEOPLES' PROTEST ORGANIZATION, IN FACT, ACCUSED GOVERNOR OF BEING INTOLERANT OF
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PEOPLES' JUST DEMANDS AND INSULTING.

4. COMMENT: HIGH OFFICIAL IN MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT
HAS ACCUSED VELASQUISTAS OF CAUSING UNREST. BUT
REGARDLESS OF WHO IS RESPONSIBLE, THOSE IN EMBASSY
AND CONGEN GUAYAQUIL WHO KNOW MANTA ARE SURE THAT MANY
OF CITIZENRY'S COMPLAINTS ARE JUSTIFIED. WE EXPECT
SITUATION TO CALM WITHOUT SPREADING TO OTHER PROVINCES.
BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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